

## **Best Practice: Sand Bag Protection Position**



**Category:** Perimeter Control

**Location First Observed:** Kandla, India

**Date First Observed:** May, 2005

### **Description:**

The port installed a sand-bag protective emplacement outside the main truck gate.

### **Discussion:**

In event of an armed attack on the main entrance of the facility, the port installed a sand-bag protective emplacement to provide protection to their armed security force. A sand bag protective emplacement provides very good ballistic protection at very low cost, with the additional benefit of being readily portable or removable as needs change. In event of an armed attack one or two security officers with side arms or rifles could take shelter behind the sand-bag emplacement and would be well protected while returning fire against an adversary. Bags can be filled with dirt with similar effect if sand is not available.

### **Potential Down-side:**

Unaesthetic and creates a “war-zone” appearance. Lack of a roof or other ballistic protection overhead leaves personnel inside vulnerable to attacks by tear gas or grenade. Little sun or rain protection. Bags will leak sand and make a mess. Other construction such as an elevated concrete entrance station can provide similar ballistic protection with a better appearance and weather protection; with the added quality of an elevated firing position that places the adversaries at a greater ballistic disadvantage.

### **Conclusion:**

Extremely low cost and highly effective in hostile environments. Not suitable for locations where risk is low and the appearance of the sand-bag emplacement would detract from the appearance of the facility. Bags and sand can be kept in reserve, and quickly filled and stacked if a hostile situation develops.

### **Cost:**

\$20 USD per 100 bags